

The NLS

The National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS), sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, are a set of surveys designed to gather information at multiple points in time on the labor market experience and well-being of six groups of men and women. Each of the six cohorts has been selected to represent all people living in the United States at the initial interview date and born during a given period. This unique set of national surveys offers researchers the opportunity to study large panels of men, women, and children over significant segments of their lives.

With more than one hundred rounds of interviews fielded for the six cohorts, the NLS offers comprehensive data on key demographic processes such as household formation, marriage and cohabitation, fertility, sexual activity, migration, mortality, schooling, employment, and income. The NLS offers exciting opportunities to study demographic behavior and outcomes for the last forty years of the twentieth century and continuing into the new millennium.

Costs

The workshop will take place on the main campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

Accommodations, local transportation, most meals, and reasonable travel expenses will be provided at **no cost** to participants. No fees will be charged.

Additional Information

NLS data and documentation, including extractable data files, questionnaires and bibliographies of research based on the data can be found at: www.bls.gov/nls

or by contacting NLS User Services at:
usersvc@postoffice.chrr.ohio-state.edu or
921 Chatham Lane, Suite 100,
Columbus, Ohio 43221-2418
(614) 442-7366 or (614) 442-7381

Workshop Sponsors

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

Center for Human Resource Research at The Ohio State University

National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago

A User Workshop on the National Longitudinal Surveys

August 3 - 6, 2004

Columbus, Ohio

The Workshop

Objectives

The Center for Human Resource Research will host a summer workshop on the National Longitudinal Survey data and its use on demographic topics.

Hands-on workshop sessions will:

- describe the demographic data in detail
- use the NLS software to extract sample data files for analysis
- highlight methodological strengths of the survey
- suggest ways to initiate research with the data

Sessions will be led by knowledgeable NLS researchers who will focus on helping participants develop research agendas on topics of their choosing. Substantive sessions will be tailored to participants' interests with a focus on demographic research, broadly defined.

Structure

Day 1

Basic information on using and accessing NLS data. Hands-on instruction covering rosters, event history arrays, and the NLS extraction software.

Day 2 and Day 3

Sessions addressing NLS data on household information, sexual activity, fertility, marriage and cohabitation, mortality, morbidity, migration, schooling, employment and income.

Day 4

Supplementary topics reflecting interests of participants. Potential topics include geographic and environmental characteristics, attitudes, drug and alcohol use, training, and program participation.

Targeted Participants

The workshop is designated for advanced level graduate students and recent Ph.D. recipients in economics, sociology, demography, public policy and other social sciences. We encourage applications from researchers in academic and nonacademic settings. About 20-25 applicants will be selected.

Applying

Applicants should submit an application form, a CV or resume, a brief research proposal (up to 2 pages), and a letter of recommendation from an advisor or senior scientist to Randall J. Olsen at olsen.6@osu.edu. Application forms and more details about the workshop may be found at www.bls.gov/nls/userconference/summer2004.htm.

Applications must be received no later than May 14, 2004. Applicants will be notified of selection decisions on or before June 1, 2004.

Remaining questions about the workshop may be addressed to Steve McClaskie at (614) 442-7366 or (614) 442-7381 or by e-mail at usersvc@postoffice.chrr.ohio-state.edu.

NLS Data Files

Core data of the NLS surveys include:

- Household composition
- Marital histories, children and dependents
- Health conditions
- Geographic residence and environmental characteristics
- Work and non-work experiences
- Schooling information
- Family assets and income

Supplemental data collections (breadth and depth varies by cohort) include:

- Family background and demographic characteristics
- Child development
- Attitudes, expectations, and intelligence scores
- Volunteer and leisure-time activities
- Delinquent and criminal activities and arrest records
- Household chores, child care, and care of ill and disabled persons
- Retirement plans, pension eligibility and pension plans

See the NLS website at www.bls.gov/nls for more information.